

REMARKS

Although Applicant filed a Notice of Appeal on December 3, 2003, Applicant has elected to forgo the filing of an Appeal Brief and instead, file this Preliminary Amendment along with the concurrently filed Request for Continued Examination to pursue further dialog with the Examiner. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 8 are amended to clarify that the claimed "access parameter" is a "subscriber-specific access parameter." It is noted that this amendment does not constitute a limitation of claim scope since the proper interpretation of "access parameter" has always included "subscriber-specific" because the claim specifies that the access parameter specifies the subscriber's rights, (therefore the original formulation implicitly included the limitation "subscriber-specific") and the expression "subscriber-specific access parameter" is used throughout in the specification.

Preliminarily, Applicant thanks the Examiner and his supervisor for the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative, Christine McCarthy, during the personal interview conducted on December 30, 2003. Based on the results of the interview, Applicant has elected to amend the claims to clarify the nature of the access parameter, as suggested by the Examiners.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Josse et al. (U.S. 6,104,929; hereafter "Josse"). As discussed during the personal interview, Applicant traverses the rejection because Josse fails to disclose, teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims.

For example, Josse fails to disclose, teach or suggest, a method of registration, the method including "the home location register maintaining a subscriber-specific access parameter which indicates whether the mobile subscriber is entitled to use the first network, the second network or both networks; in response to said message for requesting the subscriber data, the home location register sending the mobile subscriber data and also said subscriber-specific access parameter; the network element that requested the mobile subscriber data using said subscriber-specific access parameter for restricting the access of the mobile subscriber only to the first network or to the second network", as recited in rejected independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 3-4 and 6-7.

Similarly, Josee fails to disclose, teach or suggest, a method of registration, the method including "storing, in the memory of a mobile station, mobile subscriber data and a subscriber-specific access parameter indicating whether the mobile subscriber is entitled to use the first network, the second network or both networks; and the mobile station using said

subscriber-specific access parameter to restrict the access of the mobile subscriber only to the first and/or the second network", as recited in rejected independent claim 2 and its dependent claims 5 and 13-14.

Finally, Josse fails to disclose, teach or suggest, a data structure including "a subscriber-specific access parameter which indicates whether the mobile subscriber is entitled to use the first network, the second network or both networks," as recited in rejected independent claim 8 and its dependent claims 3-4 and 6-7.

As discussed during the December 30 personal interview, the class parameters of Josse are not equivalent to the access parameter of the claimed invention because, for example, Josse's class parameters A, B and C merely relate to the mobile station's physical capabilities instead of the subscriber's entitlement. Applicant has now, at the suggestion of the Examiners, further clarified the term "access parameter" by indicating that the access parameter is subscriber-specific.

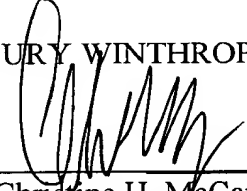
As discussed during the personal interview, the claimed access parameter is particular to the subscriber's entitlement rather than the mobile station's capabilities. During the personal interview, it was agreed that Josse would appear not to teach such claimed subject matter. Therefore, Applicant submits that the prior art rejection based on Josse is traversed and claims 1-13 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing arguments, claims 1-13 are believed to be in form for allowance, and a notice indicating such is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By


Christine H. McCarthy
Reg. No. 41844
Tel. No.: (703) 905-2043
Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, Virginia
U.S.A. 22102
(703) 905-2000